

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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FUNDS NOW AVAILABLE FOR URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROJECTS

The VI Department of Agriculture announces that grant proposals are now being accepted for Urban and Community Forestry projects. Twice each year, in May and November, the Forestry Division of the Department of Agriculture accepts proposals for projects that encourage citizen involvement in urban and community forestry projects throughout the Territory. Organizations and agencies in the US Virgin Islands may apply for grants up to \$20,000. Grants require a 1-to-1 match to the amount of funding requested; however, matches may be met through in-kind donations and volunteer time. Grant awards will be made on a competitive basis.

The deadline for application submissions for this grant cycle is May 7, 2018. Grant proposals are due into the main office of the VI Department of Agriculture located at #1 Estate Lower Love, St. Croix by 5:00 pm May 7th

The U&CF Program seeks proposals for project funding from local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, civic/service and/or educational organizations, including but not limited to schools, homeowners' associations, service clubs, and environmental organizations. This year, the U&CF Program is looking for projects in the following areas:

- Planning for and Planting Urban Trees;
- Identifying and Managing Hazardous Trees;
- Education and Public Outreach about Urban Forests and Trees;
- Training New Certified Arborists.
- Protection and Publicity about Heritage and Remarkable Big Trees;
- Reducing Forest Health Risk Due to Invasive Species;
- Collecting Data on Wildlife Use of Urban Forests;
- Developing and/or Implementing Forest Management Plans for Developed Areas with Urban Forests;
- Writing and establishing tree ordinances for neighborhood associations;

NOTE: The U&CF Program does NOT fund agricultural projects. Projects must have a major forestry component to be eligible for funding.

For more information, please contact Mr. Louis Hilgemann, U&CF Program Coordinator, at 340-778-0997 or louis.hilgemann@doa.vi.gov or visit us at the VI Department of Agriculture, St Croix office for a grant application packets.